

AMENDMENTS

Kindly amend the application as follows.

In the claims:

Claim 16

(Clean Version)

16. (amended) A method for controlling quality of a fluid which is to be purified, the method comprising the steps of:


- SUB E1*
- [Signature]*
- (a) providing a filter for filtering the fluid;
 - (b) conveying a portion of the fluid to the filter through a first passageway;
 - (c) discharging a portion of filtered fluid and a portion of unfiltered fluid through a second passageway;
 - (d) controlling proportions of the fluid flowing through the first and second passageways;
 - (e) analyzing the fluid discharged through the second passageway by determining acid content of the fluid;
 - (f) increasing proportion of the fluid which is conveyed to the filter if the acid content of the discharged fluid is above industry standards; and
 - (g) decreasing proportion of the fluid which is conveyed to the filter through the first passageway if the acid content of the discharged fluid is appreciably below industry standards.

Claim 20

(Clean Version)

20. (amended) A method for controlling quality of a fluid which is to be purified, the method comprising the steps of:

- SUB E2*
- [Signature]*
- (a) providing a filter for filtering the fluid;

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- (b) conveying a portion of the fluid to be filtered to the filter through a first passageway;
 - (c) discharging a portion of filtered fluid and a portion of unfiltered fluid through a second passageway;
 - (d) controlling proportions of the fluid flowing through the first and second passageways;
 - (e) analyzing the fluid discharged through the second passageway by determining free fatty-acid content of the fluid;
 - (f) increasing proportion of the fluid which is conveyed to the filter if the free fatty-acid content of the discharged fluid is above industry standards; and
 - (g) decreasing proportion of the fluid which is conveyed to the filter through the first passageway if the free fatty-acid content of the discharged fluid is appreciably below industry standards.

REMARKS

A clean version of the claims amended by marked-up version in applicant's Response A filed May 18, 2001 is submitted herewith in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121 as amended on September 8, 2000.

In copying the clean version of amended claim 20 from the marked-up version of claim 20, it was discovered that the last paragraph of that claim should be designated as – (g) – rather than as (h). A correction by the Examiner of this typographical error is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND PETITION

In conclusion, it is submitted that, in view of the clean version of the amended claims 16 and 20 and request for correction of the marked-up version of claim 20, presented herein, the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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 JUN 14 2001
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